

TORREYA

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A SUMMER IN SALISBURY, CONNECTICUT

BY A. VINCENT OSMUN

Occupying the northwest corner of Connecticut, the town of Salisbury is bordered on the west by New York State and on the north by Massachusetts. Mountains and valleys, lakes, swamps and brooks innumerable combine to make this not only a region of great natural beauty, but to the botanist one of the richest hunting grounds in southern New England. Here we find Connecticut's highest point of land, Bear Mountain, rising 2,355 feet above the level of the sea, while Lakes Washining and Washinee, "the twin lakes of the woods," and Lake Wononscopomuc are among her largest and most beautiful sheets of water. Along the eastern border of the town flows the Housatonic River. There are deep, cold, almost inaccessible swamps, and the botanist who has courage to penetrate their depths surely finds his reward.

In this region it was the writer's good fortune to spend the greater part of the summer of 1903. A number of plants hitherto unreported as growing in Connecticut were collected, together with many rare or unusual in other parts of the State. That Salisbury should have a flora so different from other parts of the State is probably due to the generally higher altitude, there being few points in the town below 600 feet, while at least ten peaks rise above 1,400 feet.

Our collecting was confined chiefly to a large estate in the northern part, comprising about one thousand acres of land typical of the whole town, though a few of the plants here mentioned were not found within this area. The summer's collecting by no means represents the complete flora of this region, but the following seem to deserve especial mention at this time :

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Botrychium neglectum Wood. This species is abundant in leaf-mould on the wooded mountain slopes.

Pellaea atropurpurea (L.) Link is commonly met with on limestone ledges by roadsides. Fronds fourteen to sixteen inches long frequently are found.

Asplenium Ruta-muraria L. A ledge of limestone and gneiss fully one third of a mile long is literally covered with this dainty little fern. No other stations were found.

Filix bulbifera (L.) Underw. is mentioned because of its great abundance. Not only is it found upon limestone and other ledges, but in many places where one naturally would not look for it.

Pinus resinosa Ait. One tree found at an altitude of about 1,300 feet. This is several miles from the station reported in Bishop's list of Connecticut plants, which, we are informed, was over the line in New York State.

Picea Mariana (Mill.) B.S.P. A large number of trees, varying in size from seedlings to a foot or more in diameter at the base, were found at an altitude of about 2,000 feet.

Sphagnum minimum Fries. The first known station in Connecticut was found in Lake Washinee.

Poa nemoralis L. The finding of this grass in Salisbury extends the range south from northern New England.

Sagittaria graminea Michx. was found thickly established in mud on the edge of Lake Washinee, where it is crossed by the C. N. E. R. R.

Cypripedium reginae Walt. grows abundantly in some of the more inaccessible swamps. This most beautiful of the lady's-slippers is gathered in great bunches by residents and is in danger of extermination.

Achroanthus monophylla (L.) Greene. A few plants found in a damp hemlock grove. No other station is known in Connecticut.

Corallorhiza multiflora flavida Peck. Three plants were found, one of which was deposited in the herbarium of the New York Botanical Garden. This variety has been observed only in New York State, and in 1903 in Maryland.*

* Waters, C. E. Plant World, 6: 264.

Arenaria Michauxii (Fenzl.) Hook. f. is very common on limestone ledges.

Mitella nuda L. was first reported from this state in 1903.* It is abundant in several wooded swamps.

Lepidium sativum L. was found in a chicken yard and probably was introduced in grain.

Reseda lutea L. is frequent in fields and waste places.

Gentiana quinquefolia L. Though this cannot be termed a rarity, the extraordinary numbers of plants found growing in and about Salisbury, seem to entitle it to special mention. Except two stations it seems to be confined to Litchfield County, and so far as the writer has observed is nowhere else so abundant.

Houstonia longifolia Gaertn. Only one plant was found in a dry field, diligent search failing to reveal others.

Lobelia Kalmii L. is another plant generally rare in other parts of the state, which here is very common in damp places, whole pastures sometimes being blue with it.

Petasites palmata (Ait.) A. Gray has not before been reported south of Massachusetts. It was frequently met with in a cold, wooded swamp, but no flowers were found.

Among the less noteworthy plants collected are the following :

Cinna latifolia (Trev.) Griseb. *Avena striata* Michx. *Atheropogon curtispendus* (Michx.) Fourn. *Poa debilis* Torr. *Poa alsodes* A. Gray. *Panicularia acutiflora* (Torr.) Kuntze. *Streptopus amplexifolius* (L.) DC. *Betula pumila* L. *Sibbaldiopsis tridentata* (Soland.) Rydb. *Comarum palustre* L. *Oxalis Acetosella* L. *Rhamnus alnifolia* L'Her. *Moneses uniflora* (L.) A. Gray. *Blephilia ciliata* (L.) Raf. *Utricularia minor* L. *U. gibba* L. *U. cornuta* Michx. *Hieracium Marianum* Willd.

Credit is due to Mrs. O. A. Phelps for the discovery of many of the above-listed specimens.

Most of the plants mentioned are to be found in the herbarium of Grasslands, belonging to Robert and Herbert Scoville, Salisbury (P. O. Chapinville), Connecticut.

AMHERST, MASSACHUSETTS.

* Phelps, O. A. "An Hour in a Connecticut Swamp," *Rhodora*, 5 : 196.